

B² cont'd

8. (Amended) A chimeric oligonucleotide having the formula 5'-W-X¹-Y-X²-Z-3', wherein

W represents a 5'-O-alkyl nucleotide;
each of X¹ and X² represents a block of seven to twelve phosphodiester-linked 2'-O-alkyl ribonucleotides;
Y represents a block of five to twelve phosphorothioate-linked deoxyribonucleotides; and
Z represents a blocking group effective to block nuclease activity at the 3' end of the oligonucleotide; and

X¹-Y-X² has a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office action mailed July 31, 2001 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 are currently under examination.

I. Amendments

Claim 6 has been amended to delete the word "group".

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error by changing "a 3-to-3' linked nucleotide" to "a 3'-to-3' linked nucleotide". Support is found in the specification at page 6, lines 3-4 and 13, and at page 7, line 10.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of the parent claim. The claim is also amended to delete the phrase "the segment", and to limit the nucleotide sequences to SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10, in accordance with the election made by telephone. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original scope of claim 8 in continuing applications.

II. Restriction Requirement

Applicants affirm the election made during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on July 10, 2001, without traverse, to begin prosecution with the species of claim 8 in which the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 9 or SEQ ID NO: 10, targeted to the IGFR1 gene.

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